
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE CONFERENCE

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Ladies and Gentlemen, Minister Alders and other respected opening speakers.

On behalf of my co-chair, Steven Herman, I would like to welcome you to the Third International Conference on Environmental Enforcement.

We have had two Conferences before. One in Utrecht, The Netherlands 1990; another one in Budapest, Hungary 1992. Both Conferences took place within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the United States Environmental Protection Agency and The Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. Because of the successes of both Conferences there was a call for a third conference. UNEP was very much interested and Mexico made the offer to host the third conference. So the ideas and conditions were there. And now, here we are to make the Third Conference a success as well.

We also learned from our previous conferences in terms of setting up a conference and how to make the program more effective for the benefit of the participants. So this conference will not be a copy or repetition of the two other conferences. No, it will build on the results of the other conferences and—that will be unique for a conference like this—there are a lot of workshops to make it possible for all the participants to choose his or her preference. And above all, it creates ample room for discussion among the participants themselves.

What we are trying to achieve with this conference is an exchange of views; to learn from each other about successes, but also about failures. Don't reinvent the wheel again, but use the experience gained by your colleagues from other countries. We will talk about principles of enforcement. However the implementation may differ from one country to another; depending on the type and culture of the administration and the people.

Steven Herman, my colleague from the United States, and I will be your chairmen during this conference. Today it is my turn. There are some changes in the program; pleasant ones. Because it is a pleasure and an honor for this conference to welcome:

- Mr. Carlos Sada, Mayor of the City of Oaxaca and
- Mr. Walter Burger, representing the Governor of the State of Oaxaca.

The next speakers will present an opening address:

- Mr. Carlos Sada, Mayor of the City of Oaxaca.
- Mrs. Julia Carabias, President of the Mexican Ecology National Institute.
- Mr. Arsenio Rodriguez, director of the Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean of UNEP.
- Mr. Steven Herman, Assistant Administrator USA/EPA.
- Mr. Hans Alders, Minister of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, The Netherlands.

I would like to thank all the speakers and wish you a good conference.